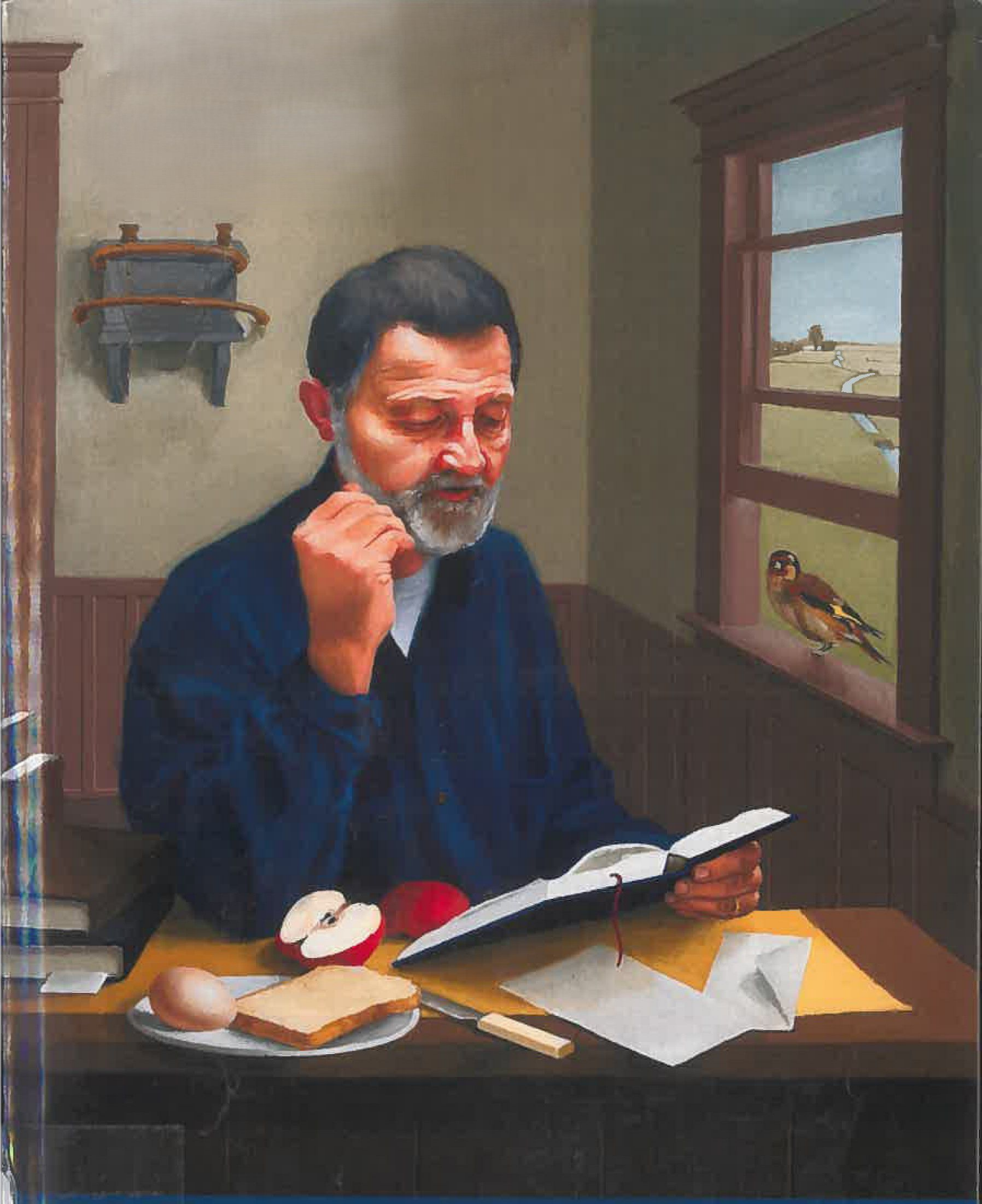

Philosophy as Responsibility

A Celebration of Hendrik Hart's Contribution to the Discipline

Edited by Ronald A. Kuipers and Janet Catherina Wesselius

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With thanks for sharing Henk, this book is dedicated to Anita, Esther, Klaas, Anita and Maurya

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The achievement of this festschrift marks the end of a long and somewhat rigorous journey, a destination successfully reached thanks to the help of many people. Since the early spring of 1997 when a small committee was struck to initiate this project, all those who have become involved have displayed a high level of dedication and commitment, one that admirably reflects their gratitude and appreciation for the profound influence Henk has had on their lives as mentor, teacher, colleague, and friend. Hearty thanks and congratulations are owed to all these people. First of all, I would like to acknowledge the groundwork laid by the original 1997 committee, which in addition to myself included Carroll Guen Hart, Vaden House, and Janet Wesselius. Much of the shape of this collection was hammered out during our early meetings. Beyond that groundwork, Janet Wesselius continued on in an editorial capacity, which has improved the book greatly. She also wrote the summary for the back cover.

One of the committee's early and, may I say, most inspired decisions was to invite Henk and Anita's children, Klaas and Esther, to contribute their artistic talents to the making of this book. Klaas painted an original portrait for the front cover that includes many symbolic elements easily recognized by those who know Henk. What is more, these symbols also connect significantly with themes that are discussed throughout the book, connections which I will leave to the reader to discover for herself. Augmenting Klaas's artwork, Esther produced a lovely book design, and also cheerfully handled the frustration of having to manually reenter most of the text's special formatting after it had been lost in transfer. I have much appreciated her patience and cooperative spirit as we worked collaboratively over this past year to complete the book in time for Henk's valedictory celebration, an occasion for which she also created a special, hand-crafted edition of the book to present to Henk. I know that Henk will be incredibly touched by the enormous amount of time and love his children have given to this project.

The original committee also had little trouble gathering a group of talented scholars to contribute original essays for this collection. Their contributions admirably reflect a heartfelt desire to pay tribute to Henk for the gifts

they have received from him over the years. Their enthusiasm for this project would also prove to be a great source of energy for me in performing the many tedious administrative and editorial tasks that one inevitably faces in putting together a book of this nature. Among these, Jeffrey Dudiak and Lambert Zuidervaart in particular have provided encouragement, friendship, and good advice along the way. I also thank Perry Recker, one of Henk's first Master's students, for preparing the bibliography of Henk's speeches and writings included in this volume, which will be an invaluable research tool for those who wish to research Henk's contribution to the tradition of reformational Christian philosophy.

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Finally, I now come to thank Henk himself for the dedication he has shown over three decades as a teacher and practitioner of philosophy. Henk has been a true mentor to his students, as well as a stimulating dialogue partner to these and so many others. In all of his relationships he strives to honour the whole person before him, a respect which has helped him achieve mutuality and trust with others. On that sturdy ground he continues to challenge us to consider how our thought and action bear upon our responsibility for contributing to the redemption of a hurting and vulnerable world. In our continuing interaction with him, we eagerly await the further contributions to both scholarship and society Henk will assuredly make during his well-deserved 'retirement'. This book is a token of that anticipation, an invitation to continue the dialogue.

Ron Kuipers, Toronto, October 2001

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Jeffrey Dudiak first made the acquaintance of Hendrik Hart in 1983 as a student at ICS, and he continues to delight in considering Henk as a teacher, and also as a friend. He holds a Master of Philosophical Foundations from ICS and a doctorate in philosophical theology from the VU (after completing the VU/ICS doctoral program). He is the author of *The Intrigue of Ethics: A Reading of the Idea of Discourse in the Thought of Emmanuel Levinas* (2001). He is currently assistant professor of philosophy at The King's University College in Edmonton, where he lives with his wife, Julie Robinson, and young son, York.

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RONALD A. KUIPERS has been a student at ICS since 1992, and is now a doctoral candidate in philosophy in the VU/ICS program. Hart supervised his master's thesis and, with Hendrik M. Vroom, is co-supervising his dissertation in the philosophy of religion. Kuipers is the author of *Solidarity and the Stranger: Themes in the Social Philosophy of Richard Rorty* (1997) and also co-editor, with Hart and Kai Nielsen, of *Walking the Tightrope of Faith: Philosophical Conversations About Reason and Religion* (1999).

JAMES H. OLTHUIS is Senior Member in Philosophical Theology at ICS, where he has taught as Hart's colleague and friend since 1968. His publications include *Keeping our Troth: Staying in Love During the Five Stages of Marriage* (1986) and *The Beautiful Risk: A New Psychology of Loving and Being Loved* (2001). He is the editor of *Knowing* Other-*wise: Philosophy at the Threshold of Spirituality* (1997), *Towards an Ethics of Community: Negotiations of Difference in a Pluralist Society* (2000), and *Religion With/out Religion: The Prayers and Tears of John D. Caputo* (2001). He is also a psychotherapist in private practice and a grandfather who rollerblades to work.

PERRY RECKER is librarian at Trinity Christian College in Chicago. He was the second person to complete a Master of Philosophical Foundations degree with Hart at ICS. As a student at Trinity, Perry first met Henk in the late sixties, probably as a guest speaker for a Trinity philosophy class. One of his earliest memories is of Henk sitting on a stool with his legs crossed, rolling a cigarette and lecturing on philosophy, and doing both with relish

and flair. He is not sure if this memory comes from a real event in the old Trinity Tabernacle or from a classroom in the old Lyndhurst house in Toronto, which for a time served as the home of both Henk and ICS. Being short himself, Perry also remembers feeling an affinity for Henk as someone of his own slight stature, but also of feeling quite intimidated by Henk's rigorous thinking, demanding scholarship, and ruthless insistence that his students learn to work independently and think for themselves. Perry will always be grateful for the boost in confidence he received when Henk accepted his first major paper without the usual request for rewriting. While working on the bibliography of Henk's work, Perry was reminded again of a true reality found in the Bible and reflected in the thought of John Dewey: "by their fruit shall ye know them."

GARY R. SHAHINIAN studied with Hart from 1982-1992, receiving both a Master of Philosophical Foundations from ICS and a Ph.D. in philosophy from the VU (after completing the VU/ICS doctoral oprogram). Hart co-supervised his dissertation, *God, Evil, and Autonomous Freedom: An Examination of the Views of Alfred North Whitehead in the Context of Contemporary Discussions.* He has taught courses in philosophy at Redeemer College in Ancaster, Ontario, Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa, and Worcester State College in Worcester, Massachusetts, where he is currently a Visiting Lecturer. He is an ordained clergy of the United Church of Christ and presently serves as pastor of Park Congregational Church, Worcester, Massachusetts.

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JANET WESSELIUS holds a Ph.D. in philosophy from the VU (after completing the VU/ICS doctoral program). Hart supervised her Master of Philosophical Foundations thesis and also co-supervised her dissertation, *Objective Ambivalence: Feminist Negotiations in Epistemology*. She teaches philosophy and women's studies at the University of Alberta in Edmonton.

LAMBERT ZUIDERVAART is Professor of Philosophy at Calvin College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. He studied with Hart in the 1970's. Zuidervaart was the first person to complete the VU/ICS doctoral program, and he also served as the Chancellor of ICS during the last three years of Henk's career there. He is the author of *Adorno's Aesthetic Theory: The Redemption of Illusion* (1991), co-author of *Dancing in the Dark: Youth, Popular Culture, and the Electronic Media* (1991), and co-editor of *Pledges of Jubilee: Essays on the Arts and Culture* (1995), *The Semblance of Subjectivity: Essays in Adorno's Aesthetic Theory* (1997), and *The Arts, Community and Cultural Democracy* (2000).

Philosophy As Responsibility celebrates the rich diversity of Hendrik Hart's work which has spanned more than thirty years. Hart was Senior Member in Systematic Philosophy at the Institute for Christian Studies in Toronto from 1966 to 2001. He is the author of numerous papers and books, including *Understanding Our World* and *Setting Our Sights by the Morning Star*. He is also the co-author of *Search for Community in a Withering Tradition* (with Kai Nielsen), and co-editor (with Nielsen and Ronald A. Kuipers) of *Walking the Tightrope of Faith*.

This collection of essays brings together for the first time original essays that assess and interact with Hart's work. The contributors have all been influenced by Hart, either as students or as colleagues, and their responses are both critical and appreciative. The collection also includes a comprehensive bibliography of Hart's writings and speeches.

The breadth of topics addressed by these essays reflects the wide-ranging contributions made by Hart to the discipline of philosophy. They deal with issues of reformational philosophy and theology as well as religious reflection and with questions of cultural criticism; they also explore the connections between Hart and philosophers in other traditions such as pragmatism, critical theory, and feminism. The theme that runs throughout Hart's work, argue the editors, is that philosophy must be responsible, must be pursued in the service of human flourishing.

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